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PROPOSED BASIC PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1997 AND 1998

Note by the Secretary-General

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INTRODUCTION

1. In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General hereby submits for consideration by the Council at its organizational session the basic programme of work for 1997 and 1998. Section I of the document includes the proposed provisional agenda for the Council's substantive session of 1997 (Geneva, 30 June-25 July), as well as a list of the documents to be submitted under each agenda item and the legislative authority for their preparation. Section II includes a list of questions for inclusion in the Council's programme of work for 1998 and a list of documents currently mandated for consideration under each agenda item.

2. The agenda items listed for inclusion in the provisional agenda are derived from existing legislative mandates, including resolutions and decisions of the Council and the General Assembly, in particular, Assembly resolutions 48/162, annex II, and 50/227, annex I, section IV. The division of the provisional agenda into segments follows the pattern established in Assembly resolution 45/264, annex, section III.

3. The Secretary-General has introduced three innovations in the form of the present document. For the first innovation, the Council will note that the programme of work for 1997 has been simplified in order to permit ease of reference and to facilitate its work. In previous years, the basic programme submitted to the Council for consideration at its organizational session included extensive annotations under each agenda item. Such annotations will appear in the annotated provisional agenda for the substantive session (E/1997/100) as in the past, thus avoiding duplication and in keeping with the practice of the General Assembly and other intergovernmental organs.

4. Attention is drawn to the items listed under the general segment. At past sessions of the Council, the majority of those topics had been considered as sub-items grouped under the two major agenda items that derive from Assembly resolution 48/162: "Social, humanitarian and human rights questions", and "Economic and environmental questions". In paragraph 67 of annex I to its resolution 50/227, the Assembly requested that the Council "regularly review the agenda of its general segment with a view to discontinuing consideration of items that are not relevant to the work of its subsidiary machinery or are duplicative of items on the agenda of the General Assembly, and distinguish more clearly between items on the agenda requiring decisions and those for information only".

5. In pursuance of that directive, the Secretary-General has proposed a re-ordering of the items and changes in the titles of some items, which is the second innovation. However, the Council may wish to consider further modifications to the agenda in order to avoid duplication between substantive discussions in its subsidiary bodies and in the Council itself as well as between deliberations in the Council and the Assembly of certain agenda items or reports in view of the directive in paragraph 66 of annex I to Assembly resolution 50/227 that the general segment of the Council should be "an action-oriented review of the activities, reports and recommendations of the Council's subsidiary bodies".

6. Further, in view of the fact that the substantive session is of four weeks duration, the Council, at its resumed substantive session of 1996, decided to devote particular attention at its organizational session for 1997 to the question of the general segment. It is anticipated that the listing in the present document will help Council members in their consideration on the strengthening of the discussion of the general segment, in keeping with the provisions of Assembly resolution 50/227. At the request of the Assembly, the Council will also have before it at its substantive session, under the general segment, a single document consolidating the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies.

7. The third innovation involves the listing of the documents mandated for the substantive session. In order to suggest the manner in which the Council may wish to consider those documents, they are divided into three categories: for action, for discussion, and for information. Such a listing, which has not previously been included in the proposed basic programme of work, is based on the Council's past practice and implies no form of legislative distinction between the various documents.

I. PROPOSED PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE SUBSTANTIVE SESSION OF 1997 OF THE COUNCIL AND LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

High-level segment

2. Fostering an enabling environment for development - financial flows, including capital flows; investment; trade

   For discussion

   Report of the Secretary-General (Council decision 1996/310)

   World Economic and Social Survey, 1997

Coordination segment

3. Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

   (a) Mainstreaming the gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

   For discussion

   Report of the Secretary-General (Council decision 1996/310)

   (b) Fresh water, including clean and safe water supply and sanitation

   For discussion

   Report of the Secretary-General (Council decision 1996/310)

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

4. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation:

   (a) Coordination of activities on a system-wide basis: funding for operational activities for development: implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227

   For discussion

   Report of the Secretary-General (Council decision 1996/310)[1]

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[1] Submitted to the General Assembly through the Council.

(b) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolutions 50/120 and 50/227, annex I, paras. 9-11, and Council resolution 1996/42)

Addendum to the above containing comprehensive statistical data on operational activities for development for the year 1995

Addendum to the above on capacity-building: conceptual and operational issues

Addendum to the above on regional dimensions of operational activities for development

Report of the Secretary-General on issues arising from the Executive Boards of United Nations funds and programmes, including their overall financial picture

(c) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

For action

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (Assembly resolution 48/162, annex, and Council resolution 1995/51)

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (Assembly resolution 48/162, annex, and Council resolution 1995/51)

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (Assembly resolution 50/8 and Council resolution 1995/51)

(d) Economic and technical cooperation among developing countries

For information

Report of the High-level Committee on the Review of Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries[1]

General segment

5. Conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies

For action

Report of the Secretary-General containing a consolidation of conclusions and recommendations of subsidiary bodies (Assembly resolution 50/227, annex I, para. 68)

6. Coordination questions:

(a) Reports of coordination bodies

For discussion

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1996, including the report of the Committee on expenditures of the United Nations system in relation to programmes (Council resolution 13 (III) and decision 1980/103)

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-seventh session (Council resolution 2008 (LX))

(b) Implementation and follow-up of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the agreed conclusions of the 1996 coordination segment of the Council on the eradication of poverty

Report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination (Council resolution 1996/36, para. 3)

(c) Multisectoral collaboration on tobacco or health

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General (Council resolution 1995/62)

(d) International cooperation in the field of informatics

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General (Council resolution 1996/35)

(e) Coordination of the activities of the organizations of the United Nations system in the field of energy

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General (Council resolution 1996/44)[1]

7. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations (Assembly resolutions 46/182, annex, and 51/194 and Council resolution 1996/33)[1]

For information

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance for the reconstruction and development of Lebanon (Council resolution 1996/32 and Assembly resolution 51/30 C[1]

Oral report on the situation of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (Assembly resolution 51/71)

8. Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolutions 49/146 and 51/81 and Council decision 1996/251)

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (Council resolution 2100 (LXIII) and Assembly resolution 51/150)[1]

Report of the President of the Council on consultations with the Chairman of the Special Committee (Council resolution 1996/37)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Declaration (Council resolution 1996/37)

10. Human rights

For action

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolutions 1988 (LX), 1985/17 and 1995/39)

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-third session (Council resolutions 5 (I) and 9 (II))

Question of a possible world conference to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and other related contemporary forms of intolerance (Assembly resolution 51/81)

Question of the right to development (Assembly resolution 51/99)

Question of the situation of human rights in Iraq (Assembly resolution 51/106)

Question of the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Assembly resolution 51/107)

Question of the situation of human rights in Afghanistan (Assembly resolution 51/108)

For discussion

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 48/141)[1]

For information

Report of the Human Rights Committee (article 45 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)[1]

Reports submitted by States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and by the specialized agencies

11. Advancement of women

For action

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-first session (Council resolutions 11 (II) and 1147 (XLI))

For discussion

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (Council resolution 1998 (LX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the system-wide coordination of activities to advance the status of women and to integrate women in development (Council resolution 1989/105)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/165 on the improvement of the situation of women in rural areas[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Assembly resolutions 50/203 and 51/69)[1]

For information

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)[1]

12. Social development

For action

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-fifth session (Council resolutions 10 (II) and 1996/7)

For information

Report of the Secretary-General on the world social situation (Assembly resolution 44/56)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (Assembly resolution 50/81)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on progress made on the follow-up to the International Year of the Family (Assembly resolution 50/142)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the process of implementation of the objectives of education for all (Assembly resolution 50/143)[1]

13. Crime prevention and criminal justice

For action

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its sixth session (Council resolution 1992/1)

Question of the elaboration of an international convention against organized transnational crime (Assembly resolution 51/120)

14. Narcotic drugs

For action

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fortieth session (Council resolution 9 (I))

Question of progress in the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly (Assembly resolution 51/64)

For information

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board (article 15 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; article 18 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971; and article 23 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances)

15. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

For discussion

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees[1]

16. Food and sustainable agricultural development

For discussion

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the outcome of the World Food Summit (Assembly resolutions 50/109 and 51/171)[1]

17. Sustainable development

For action

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its fifth session (Council decision 1993/207)

Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its thirty-first session (Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1625 (LI))

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Council resolution 1995/53 on consumer protection

For information

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on trade and environmental matters (Assembly resolution 50/95)

18. Science and technology for development

For action

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its third session (Council decision 1992/218)

19. Population and development

For action

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its thirtieth session (Council resolutions 150 (VII) and 1986/7 and decision 1995/209 and Assembly resolution 49/128)

20. Human settlements

For discussion

Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on its sixteenth session, including the report of the Commission on progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (Assembly resolutions 32/162 and 43/181)[1]

Review by the Commission on Human Settlements of its programme of work (Assembly resolution 51/177)

Consideration by the Council of the periodicity of the meetings of the Commission on Human Settlements (Assembly resolution 51/177)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Assembly resolution 51/177 on the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II)[1]

21. Environment

For discussion

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its nineteenth session (Assembly resolution 2997 (XXVII))[1]

22. Desertification and drought

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolutions 3054 (XXVIII) and 50/114 and Council resolution 1978/37)[1]

23. Cultural development

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolution 49/105 and Council decision 1996/206)[1]

24. Transport of dangerous goods

For action

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods (Council resolutions 724 C (XXVIII), 1488 (XLVIII), 1983/7 and 1995/5)

25. Cartography

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General on the Fourteenth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for Asia and the Pacific (Council decision 1994/228)

Report of the Secretary-General on the Sixth United Nations Regional Cartographic Conference for the Americas (Council decision 1993/225)

26. Women in development

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General on the effective mobilization and integration of women in development (Assembly resolutions 42/178 and 50/104)[1]

For information

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-first session

27. Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Joint and Co-sponsored United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (Council resolution 1996/47)

28. Statistics

For action

Report of the Statistical Commission on its twenty-ninth session (Council resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) and 1566 (L))

29. Public administration and development

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General on the thirteenth meeting of the Group of Experts on the United Nations Programme in Public Administration and Finance (Council decision 1989/114)

30. Regional cooperation

For action

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation, including the report of the Secretary-General on a subject relating to interregional

cooperation of common interest to all regions (Council resolution 1982/50 and decisions 1979/1 and 1982/174)

For discussion

Note by the Secretary-General on a Europe-Africa permanent link through the Strait of Gibraltar (Council resolution 1995/48)

For information

Summary of the economic survey of Europe, 1996

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Africa, 1996

Summary of the survey of economic and social conditions in Asia and the Pacific, 1997

Summary of the economic survey of Latin America and the Caribbean, 1996

Summary of economic and social developments in the region of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, 1996

31. Permanent sovereignty over national resources in the occupied Palestinian and other Arab territories

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General on economic and social repercussions of the Israeli settlements on the Palestinian people in the Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, occupied since 1967, and on the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan (Council resolution 1996/40)[1]

32. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 50/227[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the mandates, composition and functions of the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies (Council resolution 1996/41, para. 4) (E/1996/97)

Report of the Secretary-General on the working methods of the functional commissions and expert groups and bodies (Council resolution 1996/41, para. 4)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Secretaries of the regional commissions (Council resolution 1996/41, para. 9; see also Assembly resolution 50/227, annex I, paras. 74-75)

Report of the Secretary-General containing a comprehensive assessment of the present arrangements for the Council's sessions (Assembly resolution 50/227, annex I, para. 43)

33. Non-governmental organizations

For action

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1296 (XLIV) and decision 1995/304)

For information/action

Note by the Secretary-General on an increase in the membership of the Committee (Council resolution 1996/31 and decision 1995/304)

34. New and innovative ideas for generating funds

For discussion

Report of the Secretary-General (Council resolution 1996/48)[1]

35. United Nations University

For information

Report of the Council of the United Nations University for 1996[2]

36. Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

For discussion

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-seventh session

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1998-1999

37. Calendar of conferences in the economic, social and related fields

For action

Draft calendar of conferences in the economic, social and related fields for the biennium 1998-1999

Report of the Secretary-General on utilization of conference services by the Economic and Social Council (Assembly resolution 51/211 C)

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[2] Will not be considered by the General Assembly in 1997.

II. QUESTIONS FOR INCLUSION IN THE PROGRAMME OF WORK OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1998 AND LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR EACH AGENDA ITEM[1]

Substantive session of 1998

A. High-level segment

[Item/items to be selected]

World Economic and Social Survey, 1998

B. Coordination segment

Coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other bodies of the United Nations system related to the following themes:

[Theme/themes to be selected]

C. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation segment

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

Report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive triennial policy review of operational activities for development undertaken by the United Nations (Assembly resolution 50/120)[1]

Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly

Coordination of activities on a system-side basis

Consideration of the reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (Assembly resolution 48/162)

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (Assembly resolutions 802 (VIII) and 48/162)

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (Assembly resolution 50/8)

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[1] It is expected that the following list of questions will be revised in the light of the Council's deliberations on the proposed programme of work for 1997.

D. General segment

Coordination questions

Reports of coordination bodies

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-eighth session (Council resolution 2008 (LX))

Annual overview report of the Administrative Committee on Coordination for 1997 (Council resolution 13 (III))

Implementation and follow-up of major international conferences in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the 1997 agreed conclusions of the Council

Malaria and diarrhoeal diseases, in particular cholera

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the World Health Organization on the implementation of the strategies and workplans presented to the Council at its substantive session of 1995 (Council resolution 1995/63)

Social, humanitarian and human rights questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions:

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of humanitarian emergency assistance of the United Nations (Assembly resolution 46/182, annex)

Oral reports on special programmes of economic and humanitarian assistance

Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolutions 49/146 and 51/81)

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (Council resolution 2100 (LXIII))[1]

Human rights

Report of the Human Rights Committee (article 45 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)[1]

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Council resolutions 1988 (LX) and 1985/17)

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (Assembly resolution 44/25, annex)[1]

Report of the Commission on Human Rights on its fifty-fourth session (Council resolutions 5 (I) and 9 (II))

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (Assembly resolution 48/141)[1]

Documentation for information

Reports submitted by States parties to the Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and by the specialized agencies

Advancement of women

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)[1]

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its forty-second session (Council resolutions 11 (II) and 1147 (XLI))

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the revised system-wide medium-term plan for the advancement of women, 1996-2001 (Council resolution 1996/34)

Report of the Board of Trustees of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (Council resolution 1998 (LX))

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Assembly resolutions 50/203 and 51/69)[1]

Social development

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-sixth session (Council resolutions 10 (III) and 1996/7)

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventh session (Council resolution 1992/1)

Narcotic drugs

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its forty-first session (Council resolution 9 (I))

Summary of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board (article 15 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; article 18 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971; and article 23 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances)

Report of the Secretary-General on the biennial update of the United Nations System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control (Assembly resolution 48/112, sect. IV)[1]

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees[1]

Economic and environmental questions: reports of subsidiary bodies, conferences and related questions

Sustainable development

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its sixth session (Council decision 1993/207)

Report of the Committee for Development Planning on its thirty-second session (Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1625 (LI))

Report of the Committee for Development Planning on the report of the Secretary-General on a vulnerability index for small island developing States (Assembly resolution 51/183)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment (Assembly resolution 39/229)[1]

Natural resources

Report of the Committee on Natural Resources on its fourth session (Council decisions 1992/218 and 1993/302)

Energy

Report of the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development on its third session (Council decision 1992/218)

International cooperation in tax matters

Report of the Secretary-General on the progress of the work of the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (Council resolutions 1273 (XLIII) and 1765 (LIV))

Public administration and finance

Report of the Secretary-General (Assembly resolution 50/225)[1]

Cartography

Report of the Secretary-General on the Seventh United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names (Council decision 1993/226)

Regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (Council decision 1979/1), including the report of the Secretary-General on a subject relating to interregional cooperation of common interest to all regions (Council resolution 1982/50 and decision 1982/174)

Summaries of the surveys of economic conditions in the five regions prepared by the regional commissions (Council resolution 1724 (LIII))

United Nations University

Report of the Council of the United Nations University for 1997[4]

Programme and related questions in the economic, social and related fields

Relevant chapters of the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1998-2003

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its thirty-eighth session

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[4] Will be considered by the General Assembly in 1998.